

REMARKS

Introduction and status of claims

- This application has been further reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on May 28, 2010.

- Claims 1-28 are now pending in this application.
- Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 13-16 are in independent form.
- Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, and 15-22 have been amended.
- As an initial matter, while the Office Action Summary indicates that only claims 1-27 are pending, actually claim 28 is pending as well (claims 18-28 having been added in the previous response). Correction of the record is respectfully requested.

Applicant Request for Interview

This Amendment After Final Rejection is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, however, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue. In that regard, this paper shall serve as a formal request for an interview, to be held before the Examiner issues a next Office Action. The Examiner is kindly thanked in advance.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 9-13, 16-18, 21-24, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement for the reasons set out in the Office Action at page 3.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to delete the recitation “said identification code being not necessary to be sent to the server computer in order to establish a session.” Similar changes have been made to independent claims 2, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 16. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, for the reasons set out in the Office Action at page 4. Claim 17 has been amended to recite a “*non-transitory* computer-readable recording medium storing a program for making a computer function as a client computer in the computer system according to Claim 1.” Similar changes have been made to claims 18-22. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under Section 101 is respectfully requested.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,668,322 to Wood.

Claims 4, 8, 24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Wood in view of U.S. Patent 6,990,592 to Richmond.

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner’s comments set out in the Office Action, and submit that independent claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 13-16, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

(1) Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts on page 5 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"an identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) that corresponds to a specific identification code recorded in a specific client computer is recorded in each of the portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21). (column 12, lines 50-57)"

Applicants disagree. Wood discusses that a session token may be transmitted to a medium such as a smart card (column 12, lines 54-56). When a session token is transmitted from a user computer (browser 170 in Fig. 1) to a smart card, the session token is recorded in the smart card and it still remains in the user computer. Therefore, in Wood, a session token that corresponds to a specific session token recorded in a specific user computer is recorded in a smart card. Applicants understand that this is what the Examiner refers to in his above assertion. However, according to paragraph 2 of claim 1, "a unique identification code (ID(11), ID(12), ID(21)) is recorded in each of the client computers (11, 12, 21) so as to enable distinction from other client computers." That is, "an identification code" in the claimed invention is a code "to enable distinction from other client computers." The session token of Wood is a token to enable establishing a session and is not a code to enable distinction from other computers. In Wood, "a session token" is transmitted to a smart card, but "an identification code so as to enable distinction from other client computers" is not transmitted to a smart card.

In a computer, all of the information is stored as a form of binary data, such as bit "0" or "1." Therefore, "a session token" in Wood is stored in a smart card as binary data, and "an identification code so as to enable distinction from other client computers" in the claimed invention is stored in a portable information recording medium as binary data. However, the role of "a session token" and that of "an identification code so as to enable distinction from

other client computers" are different. Their features are also different. That is, "a session token" in Wood and "an identification code" in the present invention are distinctive different elements.

For at least this reason, claim 1 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(2) The Examiner asserts on page 5 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"an identification code comparing means (11C) that compares an identification code recorded in a currently connected portable information recording medium (R11) and an identification code recorded in itself (the client computers), an access right setting means (11B) that sets a predetermined access right based on a comparison result." (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65)"

Applicants have carefully reviewed Wood but cannot find any description that the client computer compares an identification code stored in a smart card and an identification code stored in the client computer itself, even if, assuming *arguendo*, "a session token" were to be regarded as "an identification code," in the cited portions of Wood. In Fig. 1, elements 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 190 are components of a server computer and only element 170 (Browser) is a component of a client computer. Therefore, a smart card as mentioned in column 12, line 56 may be connected to element 170. However, there is no description that element 170 carries out a comparison operation between "a session token" stored in the smart card and "a session token" stored in itself. As understood by Applicants, column 11, lines 35-67 of Wood discloses an operation carried out inside the server computer, especially an operation between gatekeeper 110 and authorization 140.

For at least this reason as well, claim 1 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(3) Regarding independent claim 2, the Examiner asserts on page 6 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"an identification code (ID(11)) that corresponds to a specific identification code recorded in a specific client computer is recorded in each of the portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21). (column 12, lines 50-57)"

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion, for the same reasons as discussed above in item (1).

For at least this reason, independent claim 2 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(4) Also regarding claim 2, the Examiner asserts on page 7 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"each of the portable information processing devices (P11) comprises an identification code comparing means (11E) that compares an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in a currently connected client computer (11) and an identification code (ID(11)) recorded in itself (the portable information processing devices), an access right setting means (11F) that sets a predetermined access right based on a comparison result." (column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65)"

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion, for the same reasons as discussed above in item (2).

For at least this reason as well, independent claim 2 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(5) Regarding independent claim 5, the Examiner asserts on page 8 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"environment information (ENV(11), ENV(12), ENV(21)) that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11, 12, 21) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) is recorded in each of the portable information recording media (R11, R12, R21). (column 6, lines 7-22)"

As understood by Applicants, column 6, lines 7-22 of Wood discloses that authority component 140 or gatekeeper 110 in the server computer makes a judgment as to whether an access from the outside under a particular environment is to be accepted or refused.

Therefore, environment information must be located in the server computer, but not in the portable information recording medium. Applicants cannot find any description in Wood that the portable information recording medium, or a smart card mentioned in column 6, line 56, stores environment information, because "a session token" is not environment information.

For at least this reason, independent claim 5 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(6) Also regarding independent claim 5, the Examiner asserts on page 8 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"an environment comparing means (11H) that compares a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in a currently connected portable information recording medium (R11) and a current network environment itself." (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65)"

According to the description of column 6, lines 7-22 of Wood, authorization component 140 may include a kind of environment comparing means which compares a network environment of the client computer currently accessing to and a network environment indicated by environment information recorded in somewhere inside the server computer. However, Wood does not disclose that the client computer (browser 170 in Fig. 1) includes an environment comparing means. In Wood, a comparison job is made in the server computer (authorization component 140), but not in the client computer (browser 170).

For at least this reason as well, independent claim 5 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(7) Regarding independent claim 6, the Examiner asserts on page 9 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"environment information that indicates a specific network environment that is obtained when a client computer (11, 12, 21) is connected to a specific location of the network (100) is recorded in each of the portable information processing devices (P11). (column 6, lines 7-22)"

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion, for the same reasons as discussed above in item (5).

For at least this reason, independent claim 6 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

(8) Also regarding independent claim 6, the Examiner asserts on page 9 of the Office Action that Wood discloses:

"each of the portable information processing devices (P11) comprises an environment comparing means (111) that compares a network environment of a currently connected client computer and a network environment indicated by environment information (ENV(11)) recorded in itself." (column 6, lines 7-22, column 11, lines 35-67, column 12, lines 50-65)"

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion, for the same reasons as discussed above in item (6).

For at least this reason as well, independent claim 6 is seen to be clearly allowable over Wood.

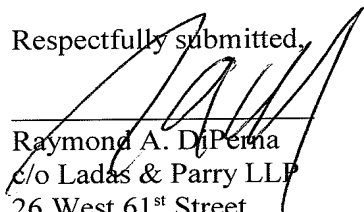
(9) Independent claims 9, 10, and 13-16 recite certain features which are similar in many relevant respects to various features discussed above. Accordingly, claims 9, 10, and 13-16 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

(10) The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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